

INTERNATIONAL STUDIES DAY

7th edition



The coordinator for International Studies Day is **Dr. Sorin Nastasia**, Director of the International Studies Program in the College of Arts and Sciences at SIUE.

Special thanks for making this event possible to:

- Dr. Kevin Leonard, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, SIUE
- Dr. Tisha Brooks and Dr. Vance McCracken, Associate Deans in the College of Arts and Sciences at SIUE
- Mr. Brian Hinterscher, Director of Advising, College of Arts and Sciences, SIUE
- Ms. Nancy Wilson and Ms. Erin Hennessey, Advisors, College of Arts and Sciences, SIUE
- Event services, catering services, and technical services staff in the Morris University Center at SIUE
- SIUE faculty, staff, and students, as well as regional community residents who have helped promote and are attending International Studies Day

International Studies Day is supported with funding from the College of Arts and Sciences.

Connect with us at:

<http://www.siu.edu/artsandsciences/internationalstudies>



Wednesday
April 17, 2024
9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

PROGRAM

Morris University Center
Mississippi-Illinois Rooms

9:30 to 10:45 a.m. CST

Panel Discussion: *International Resources from Our Region Available to Students*

Community leaders from the Saint Louis metropolitan area and academic experts will provide an overview of opportunities for engagement with organizations with an international focus and for study abroad.

Han Ko, President and CEO, USAKO Group; St. Louis County Commissioner

Carlos Suarez, Director of Economic Development, International Institute of St. Louis

Ryan Donald, Study Abroad Specialist, International Affairs, SIUE

11:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. CST

Remarks by Dr. Kevin Leonard, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences, SIUE

Keynote Presentation: *35 Years After the Fall of Communism: Social and Communication Trends and Practices*

Silvia Elena Iacob, Professor and Dean, College of Theoretical and Applied Economic Studies, University of Economic Studies, Bucharest, Romania

Georgiana Raluca Lădaru, Professor and Doctoral School Director, College of Agri-Food and Environmental Economics, University of Economic Studies, Bucharest, Romania

12:30 to 1:45 p.m. CST

Lunch & INTS Program Steering Committee Retreat

2:00 to 3:30 p.m. CST

Presentation: *Educational Aspects in Ukraine Today in the Context of the War*

Hanna Vlasova, Fulbright Fellow, SIUE Instructor

3:45 to 5:00 p.m. CST

Panel Discussion: *Research with International Focus Pursued by SIUE Faculty*

Several faculty affiliates of the International Studies program at SIUE will provide information on their research projects with international focus and global impact.

Carolina Rocha, Professor, Foreign Languages and Literature; Director, Women's Studies Program

Latin American Cinema and Literature

Suman Mishra, Professor, Mass Communications

Researching India: Globalization, Media, and Social Change

Tom Lavallee, Associate Professor, Foreign Languages and Literature

Reflection on Travel to Hubei Province in China

Kathleen Vongsathorn, Assistant Professor, Department of History

Humanitarianism and the Elimination of Leprosy in Uganda



International Studies at SIUE is an interdisciplinary degree program designed to help students reflect on and engage in the complex social, political, economic, and cultural interrelations that exist among nations and regions of our increasingly globalized world. The program offers a broad range of curricular options in the College of Arts and Sciences, allowing students to explore, in regards to various peoples and across populations, aspects related to geography, history, religion, government, trade, communication, languages and literatures, music and arts, social justice and environmental challenges. Students in the program have opportunities to learn critical and analytical problem-solving skills that they can apply to contemporary global issues.

The program benefits from:

- An outstanding set of cross-cultural and cross-disciplinary core and elective courses
- A focus on combining the theoretical learning about social, political, economic and cultural developments in different world regions with hands-on applications of such knowledge by means of a foreign language requirement, a study abroad component, a senior assignment experience, as well as possibilities of internships and independent projects
- Various opportunities to tap into existing and emerging groups and networks on the SIUE campus, regionally, nationally and internationally.
- Graduates with a bachelor's degree in international studies are qualified for many positions in diplomacy or with nonprofits, governmental and international organizations, and businesses.

Keynote Presenters:

35 Years After the Fall of Communism: Social and Communication Trends and Practices



Silvia Elena Iacob is a Professor and the Dean of the College of Theoretical and Applied Economic Studies at the University of Economic Studies in Bucharest, Romania. Dr. Iacob was previously the Associate Dean responsible for the economic-social environment and student life within the same college. She earned both her Ph.D. and her Master's degree from the University of Economic Studies in Bucharest as well as a postgraduate degree from Universite d'Auvergne Clermont Ferrand Institut Universitaire Professionnalise in France. Her research focuses on image management and economic growth in the context of economic and social changes as well as on the management of social services. She is also an expert in practices for increasing the competitiveness of the national economy through retention and reintegration strategies for young graduates of tertiary education in Romania. She has been a leader and contributor to numerous projects pursued with European Union funding.

Georgiana Raluca Lădaru is a Professor and the Doctoral School Director at the College of Agri-Food and Environmental Economics, University of Economic Studies in Bucharest, Romania. Dr. Ladaru was previously a Vice Dean at the same



college. She earned her Ph.D. from the University of Economic Studies in Bucharest and her Master's degree from the University of Agronomic Sciences and Veterinary Medicine of Bucharest. She pursued additional training at the University of Verona in Italy and Cornell University in the United States. She has taught courses and completed research projects related to agricultural markets and environmental studies in collaboration with the University of Catania and the University of Foggia in Italy through various mobility and research programs of the European Union.

Presenter:

Educational Aspects in Ukraine Today in the Context of the War



Hanna Vlasova is from Bakhmut, a city in southeastern Ukraine. She earned a Bachelor's and Master's degree in teaching Ukrainian language and literature. She is currently a Fulbright FLTA Scholar at SIUE. Hanna is inspired by interacting with students and examining literary texts. Her research interests are concentrated on education and literary studies pertaining to Ukraine. She is also interested in exploring the question of the influence of language on the worldview of users and the possibility of dialogue between cultures by reading a literary work.



Ryan Donald is the Study Abroad Specialist of the Office of International Affairs at SIUE. He was born in Canada and first came to the U.S. as an international student. This experience, combined with an interest in different cultures, brought him to the field of international education. A certified Cultural Intelligence (CQ) facilitator, he has developed international programs and training for students, faculty, and staff.

Panelists: *Research with International Focus by SIUE Faculty*



Carolina Rocha is a Professor in the Department of Foreign Languages and Literature as well as the Director of the Women's Studies Program at SIUE. She earned her Ph.D. and Master's degrees from the University of Texas at Austin. Her research areas include the representation of women in Latin American literature and film, female writers and film directors in Latin America, and gendered migration in Latin American film.



Suman Mishra is a Professor, current Graduate Director, and incoming Chair in the Department of Mass Communications at SIUE. She earned her Ph.D. from Temple University and her Master's degrees from Michigan State University as well as the Institute of Management Studies in India. Her research focuses on multicultural marketing, consumer culture, globalization, transnational flows of media and information, and media representation of social identities.



Thomas Lavalley is an Associate Professor in the Department of Foreign Languages and Literature at SIUE. He received both his Ph.D. and Master's degrees from Washington University in St. Louis. He has led several travel study groups to China. His research interests include cultural mobility in global settings and divination systems in Hubei Province in China.



Kathleen Vongsathorn is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Historical Studies at SIUE. She earned both her Ph.D. and Master's degrees from the University of Oxford in the U.K. Her research interests include the history of medicine, missionary medicine, history of childhood, women's health, African history, and humanitarianism.

Panelists: *Organizations with an International Focus in Our Region*



Han Ko is the Founder and CEO of USAKO Group, an international investment company, as well as a faculty member at Midwest University. Based on his education in the high tech field, including a graduate degree from Washington University, combined with decades of experience, he has successfully launched and operated multiple ventures in the U.S., South Korea, and the Middle Eastern market. He currently serves as a Commissioner in Economic Development for St. Louis County, a member of the Council Board for the District Export Council in Missouri (as an appointee of the U.S. Department of Commerce Secretary), a board member of the, Southwest Illinois Trade and Investment Council, as well as a member of the Advisory Council to the President of South Korea. He has played various additional economic and community key leadership roles in multiple organizations, including as board member of Asian American Chamber of Commerce, founding board member of multiple companies, and contributor to various nonprofit organizations such as Gateway Korea Foundation.



Carlos Suarez is the Director of Economic Development at the International Institute of St. Louis, where he leads a team working with the foreign-born community in creating new startups, integrating new neighbors into the US banking system, and walking alongside those looking to achieve the American dream. His team works primarily with those coming to the St. Louis through the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees as well as the overall immigrant population. Carlos' team also oversees the International Institute of St. Louis' language services, offering translation and interpretation to individuals and organizations such as universities, governments, and businesses seeking to enhance language access. Priority, Carlos worked for a few startups in the St. Louis area, as well as an international NGO for several years, collaborating with organizations such as the United Nations and its agencies around the engagement of young people to advance the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Carlos also leads the United Nations Association of Saint Louis, serving as President since.